

# Men granted certificates of innocence in '92 slayings



The convictions of Lewis Gardner, left, and Paul Phillips were thrown out in January. On Thursday, a Cook County judge granted certificates of innocence to the men who each spent close to 15 years in prison. (Terrence Antonio James / Chicago Tribune)

By **Steve Mills**  
Tribune reporter

---

SHARE THIS



Certificates of innocence will allow men convicted in 1992 slayings to seek money from state

---

AUGUST 14, 2014, 3:10 PM

**A** Cook County judge today granted certificates of innocence to two men who each spent close to 15 years in prison for their convictions in a 1992 double murder.

The certificates of innocence, granted by Judge Paul Biebel, will allow Lewis Gardner and Paul Phillips to seek compensation from the state for their time in prison, said their attorney, Flint Taylor.

The pair was among eight young men charged in the November 1992 slayings of Jeffrey Lassiter and Sharon Haugabook in an apartment near Clarendon Park on the city's North Side.

All eight confessed and implicated one another. Police records showed that one of the eight men, Daniel Taylor, was in a North Side police station lockup when the slayings occurred, but prosecutors still took him to trial and won a conviction.

Ultimately, the fatal flaw in the case -- that Taylor couldn't have taken part in the killings despite his confession -- unraveled the cases against the others as well since they were all so tightly intertwined through the interlocking confessions.

Gardner and Phillips, who were convicted as lookouts, had completed their prison terms before they were cleared in June after Cook County prosecutors agreed to vacate their convictions. Prosecutors took no position on their request for a certificate of innocence, according to Taylor.

[smmills@tribune.com](mailto:smmills@tribune.com)

Copyright © 2018, Chicago Tribune

**This article is related to:** [Trials and Arbitration, Justice System, Crime](#)